



Spring/Summer 2010

COUNTY CLIPS

A Newsletter for Employees of Contra Costa County



SPOTLIGHT ON

Contra Costa County
Public Defender's Office

See page 3

Message from Supervisor Gioia



By John Gioia

Completing Census Forms Means Vital Federal Dollars for Contra Costa

As most of you know, it's Census Season again. Every ten years the federal government updates its count of the U.S. population. In today's tough economic times, filling out and mailing in census

forms is especially important, more than many people realize.

Census data is used by the federal government to determine how much funding to distribute to schools, libraries, hospitals, police and fire departments, transit agencies, and other important local government services.

In short, the more residents counted by the Census, the more federal funding for local services here in Contra Costa. We all benefit. The federal government contributes about \$3,000 annually per person counted. Let's not lose any of this critical funding by not returning our forms!

There's another important reason to complete the Census forms. This data is also used to determine the number of congressmembers from California. The only way to insure Californians are adequately represented in Washington D.C. is with an accurate population count from the census.

Let me clear up a few myths about the census:

Answers are totally confidential.

Immigration status isn't an issue. The census counts residency or where you live, not your legal status.

It doesn't matter if you don't live in an actual home or house. Homeless residents count on the census and should complete a form.

I hope you'll join me in sending in your census form. It only takes a few minutes; a small gesture that really can make a difference. Please tell your friends to send in their forms, as well. For more information call the U.S. Census Office at 1-800-923-8282, or visit www.2010census.gov.

Let's make sure that Contra Costa is fully counted!



County Clips

Spring/Summer Edition - 2010

Spotlight on Public Defender's Office	3
Veterans Services	5
Election News	5
Tobacco Prevention	6
CCHS - Cancer Program	7
Coast2Coast Rx Card Program	7
Sheriff Deputies Rescue Boy	8
Fire District Rescue	9
Pool Safety Tips	10
Summer Reading Program	11
Department of Child Support Services	12
Employment & Human Services - Head Start	12
Holiday Food Drive	13
General Service Department - Recycling	14
National Public Works Week	15
Congratulations on a Job Well Done	16

Recommendations Please

County Clips is your employee newsletter. Please send us your comments, questions & suggestions.

You can contact us at (925) 313-1180
or email us at cwamp@contracostatv.org.



Office of Public Defender

The Sixth Amendment of the United States Constitution guarantees a person accused of a crime the right to a lawyer. The United States Supreme Court case, *Gideon v. Wainwright*, guarantees a person accused of a crime the right to a government-provided lawyer if he/she cannot afford one. These rights are guaranteed because persons charged in criminal and other special proceedings face the potential loss of significant liberties.

Public defenders are licensed California attorneys who specialize in criminal law. Public defenders are appointed by the court to represent persons charged with crimes or violations of probation in adult and juvenile courts, as well as patients who have been placed in psychiatric hospitals against their will pursuant to the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act (LPS).

Contra Costa County public defenders safeguard their adult and juvenile clients' due process rights in courthouses located in Richmond, Walnut Creek, Pittsburg and Martinez. There is a Public Defender Office and an Alternate Defender Office. The Public Defender Office has two offices, located in Martinez and Richmond. The Alternate Defender Office, located in Martinez, handles clients that the Public Defender Office cannot represent due to a conflict in interest or for other reasons.

Both these offices are under the direction of the newly appointed Public Defender (PD), Robin Lipetzky. The Board of Supervisors appointed her on January 20, 2010. Ms. Lipetzky is the first woman Public Defender in Contra Costa County, and has been with the office since 1990. She is in charge of a staff of over 60 attorneys and over 30 investigative, paralegal, administrative and clerical employees.

"My No. 1 priority is to continue to provide the best representation for the clients that we serve. Our office has an excellent reputation for being one of the best public defender offices in the state and I am committed to keeping that reputation alive."

In keeping with the constitutional guarantees to persons charged with crimes, PD Lipetzky's goal in 2010 is to have her attorneys appear with clients at their first court appearance on misdemeanor cases. Currently, in Contra Costa County, defendants charged with misdemeanors are arraigned before a judge without benefit of counsel. For those defendants who want an attorney but cannot afford one, the judge refers them to the Public Defender Office. The defendants then must come back to court on another date. At the first court appearance, many defendants waive their rights to a lawyer and proceed without benefit of counsel.

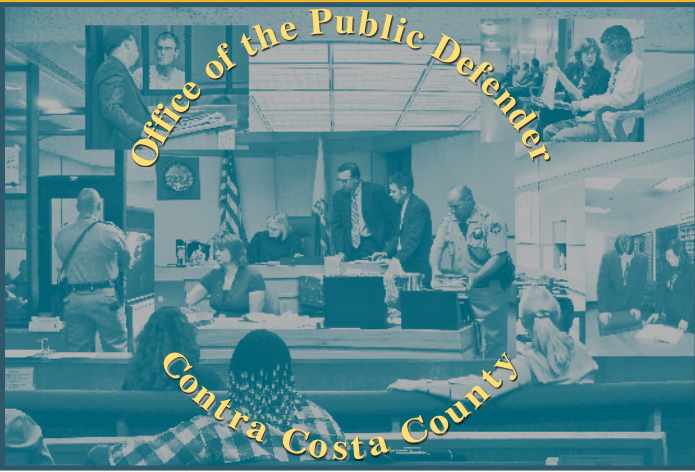


Public Defenders in Conference.



Robin Lipetzky, the first women Public Defender in Contra Costa County.

Spotlight Continued



Public Defenders on the Job.

PD Lipetzky feels that having attorneys available to provide advice to defendants charged with misdemeanors at their first court appearance will protect people's constitutional rights and ensure equal justice in the judicial system for indigent people.

She is also proud of the office's role and efforts in providing people a second chance and improving their lives through Clean Slate and expungements, juvenile drug court, and behavioral health court.

For former defendants who have completed probation successfully and, subsequently remained free of any criminal activity, public defenders petition the courts to expunge the prior convictions. Cleaning up clients' records allow them to find jobs, and improve their employment, educational and housing opportunities. Clean

Slate clients are referred through Employment and Human Services Department and expungement clients are former clients or walk-ins. The office is committed to providing this service in light of the tough economic times.

Juvenile drug court is for minors that commit criminal offenses stemming from substance abuse issues. Treatment consists of weekly group and individual meetings, random drug testing, community service, and NA/AA meetings. The slogan, "it takes a village to raise a child," is incorporated into the program. The village consists of probation officers, deputy district attorneys, deputy public defenders, drug treatment professionals, judicial officers and mental health representatives. Successful graduates earn their high school diplomas or GED and have gone on to gainful employment in corporations and the military.

Behavioral Health Court (BHC) also has the same collaborative team effort, consisting of a deputy sheriff, a judge, a probation officer, a mental health clinical specialist, a forensic liaison, two peer advocates, a deputy district attorney, and a deputy public defender. The program is designed for individuals who commit crimes because of their mental illnesses. BHC provides direct services, teaches independent living skills and helps clients reintegrate back into their community. Twelve people have graduated since the inception of the program in 2007. One of the graduates has become a county employee and is the house manager for a clean and sober living residence.

In both drug and BHC courts, the public defender develops a special rapport with each client, has an intimate knowledge of his/her personal history and background, and takes on an additional role of social worker, therapist and friend.

Under PD Lipetzky's leadership, the office will continue to promote ways to accomplish its mission and commitment to indigent clients.



Above: Behavioral Health Court's Judge Hiramoto presents a certificate of graduation to a program participant.



Left: Public Defender Attorneys in conference.

Veterans Services Available

State of California, Education Benefit for Dependents of Veterans with a Service Connected Disability



Children of veterans with disabilities related to their military service as recognized by the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) may be eligible for a waiver of their fees and tuition if they attend a State of California institution of higher learning such as a community college, a California State University or a University of California. To be entitled to this benefit the child's adjusted gross income and value of support provided by the veteran cannot exceed the national poverty level. For the academic year 2010-2011 the national poverty level is \$11,161. Spouses of a veteran who is totally service connected disabled or who has died of service-related causes may also qualify for a waiver of their fees and tuition at state colleges. For more information on these benefits or to apply contact the Contra Costa County Veterans Service Office at (925) 313-1481.

Election News

Be a Part of Something Big: Serve as a Poll Worker June 8th!

The Election Department is getting ready for the Direct Primary Election on June 8th and we're looking for a few good people to serve as poll workers!

We are THANKFUL for the support we receive each election from various county departments that allow staff to participate in the *County Employees as Volunteer Poll Worker Program*. County employees are usually assigned to the Inspector position (Supervisor) and have proven to be among the most qualified and dedicated poll workers in every election since the inception of the program by the Board of Supervisors in 2002.

In this program, county employee time is diverted from their normal duties to work at polling places. In addition to receiving their normal pay without having to use accrued vacation or comp time, the county employee receives a stipend of

\$80.00 to \$175.00, depending on assigned position, completion of training and duties. The employee is required to:

- **complete an application and obtain the signature of his/her appointing authority in order to participate**
- **complete necessary training**
- **agree to work a full day shift from 6am until approximately 9pm**
- **agree to receive the monetary stipend in lieu of overtime**
- **arrive at polling place on time and fulfill duties assigned**

We are particularly interested in recruiting county workers who are fluent in both English and Spanish to help us comply with the bilingual provisions of the Voting Rights Act and provide language assistance at the polls.

Applications for this program are distributed via countywide blast email. They are also available from our website www.cocovote.us or by calling 925-335-7873.

Did You Know That ...

The Elections Division offers a unique opportunity for high school students and service organizations to participate and make a difference in their community:

Youth with a Vision Election Officer Program- allows high school students to be part of the election process and show that young people can make a positive difference in their local community while providing a civic service. Participants must be 16 years old, U.S. Citizens, have a 2.5 GPA (on a 4.0 scale) and have parent's permission and teacher recommendation. Each student will receive a monetary stipend based on the position assigned.

Adopt-A-Poll Program- members of service clubs and non-profit organizations can serve at the polls and donate their stipends to fund-raise money for their organization while serving their community. Participants must be registered voters in California and be able to read, write and speak English. A service group was able to fundraise more than \$10,000 during the 2008 election year! Is your group next?

Remember, you must register to vote by May 24th in order to be eligible to vote in the June 8th Direct Primary Election. You can download a Voter Registration Card and other helpful information on our website: www.cocovote.us. For more information, please call the Contra Costa County Election Department at 925-335-7800.

County Supervisors Commend Quality Improvement Efforts

The success of Contra Costa Health Services' (CCHS') quality improvement efforts has caught on and could spread. One effort that has particularly energized staff is Contra Costa Regional Medical Center's (CCRMC's) Lean Management model. CCHS Director, Dr. William Walker, and CCRMC CEO, Anna Roth, went before the County Board of Supervisors in March to talk about



Lean photo: CCRMC CEO Anna Roth (left) and Dr. Walker at the BOS meeting.

Lean Management and its success at the medical center. Roth said the idea behind Lean Management is to work smarter, not harder. The presentation, which included a video that outlined core principles, sparked interest among County Supervisors and prompted a second presentation to other County Department heads. Strategies are also being explored for using the approach in other Divisions. Dr. Walker said he is excited about this process of improving the patient/client/customer experience and making our systems more efficient.

The Lean video is available on the CCHS website: http://cchealth.org/medical_center/.

Tale of Two Cities



Two Contra Costa Cities Recognized for Groundbreaking Tobacco Prevention Policies

The City of Richmond received a highly coveted overall grade of A on the 2009 American Lung Association "State of Tobacco Control Report Card." The City of Martinez and unincorporated Contra Costa County followed closely behind with overall grades of B. In just one year, Richmond brought its grade from an F to an A and Martinez improved its rating from an F to a B.

The American Lung Association "State of Tobacco Control Report Card" grades 373 cities and 34 counties in California based on policies adopted and implemented in three categories: Smokefree Outdoor Air; Smokefree Housing; and Reducing Sales of Tobacco Products.

"Other cities in Contra Costa County and in California will now look to Richmond and Martinez as examples of how to effectively protect people from the harmful effects of tobacco," said Paul Doolittle, Co-chair of the Contra Costa Tobacco Prevention Coalition. "We know that the types of policies these two cities have adopted reduce tobacco use and save lives."

Martinez was the first city in Contra Costa to pass a comprehensive law banning smoking in public spaces in May 2009 and Richmond adopted a similar law in June 2009. Richmond went on to adopt five other tobacco-related laws, including: the strongest multi-unit housing policy in the nation; a smoke-free pharmacies policy; and is currently considering two more policies that would regulate tobacco retailers.

Contra Costa Public Health Director, Dr. Wendel Brunner, lauded the extraordinary progress. "Richmond has long been known for its public health problems and now it can be known for its public health solutions," Brunner said.

For more information about Secondhand Smoke Protections Policies, call the Tobacco Prevention Coalition at 925-313-6214. For more information about "State of Tobacco Control Report Card" results for other cities and counties in California, go to www.californialung.org/raisethegrade.

New Trans Fat Legislation

Did you know that current and upcoming laws will change the way restaurants can use certain oils and display nutritional information? With the passing of Assembly Bill 97, food facilities are no longer allowed to use trans fats, including those used for spreads and fried foods, in food preparation. An exception to this law is deep frying yeast dough or cake batter—though that will be outlawed beginning January 1, 2011. Natural trans fats and foods sold in original, sealed packaging are also exempt. Consuming even small amounts of artificial trans fats can double a person's risk for heart disease. The menu-labeling law requires certain nutritional information to be made public in chains of 20 locations or more. While the menu-labeling law does not apply to grocery or convenience stores, it does apply to separately owned chain facilities within these markets. The first phase of the menu labeling law took effect in 2009 and will expand in January of 2011. This new content is available by visiting www.cchealth.org and clicking Environmental Health in the left navigation menu.

CCRMC Cancer Program Recognized for its 'Outstanding Achievement'

Contra Costa Regional Medical Center's (CCRMC's) Cancer Program is one of only three California hospitals to receive the 2009 Outstanding Achievement Award from the American College of Surgeons' Commission on Cancer.

The Chicago-based Commission on Cancer recognizes accredited cancer programs that "strive for excellence in providing quality care to cancer patients." CCRMC Cancer Program Medical Director, Dr. Sharon Hiner, said the recognition reflects the program's commitment to quality.

"This is a great honor and it recognizes that we are a state-of-the-art facility. Not everyone knows that public hospitals like ours provide such excellent care," Dr. Hiner said.

"As the county health system, our mission is to serve the underserved and we believe our patients deserve the best care possible. This award shows that we are doing just that."

For 41-year-old breast cancer patient Janet Morris, the cancer program has been a godsend. She discovered a lump shortly after she had lost her job and health insurance last year. "I got such wonderful care, and I felt very welcome. They are so caring, competent and loving," Morris said. Not only is Morris receiving top notch care at CCRMC, she also is participating in clinical trials that give her access to some of the best new cancer drugs.

"We are able to enroll more patients into clinical trials than some university hospitals, which means patients have access to cutting edge treatments," Dr. Hiner said. CCRMC's cancer program was accredited in 1987 and is part of the Contra Costa Health Services county health system. The CCRMC Cancer Program also recently issued its 2010 Annual Report, which is available at www.cchealth.org. The annual report includes an in-depth look at breast cancer treatment at CCRMC. For the Commission on Cancer's full award list, visit <http://www.facs.org/cancer/coc/outstandingachievement2009.html>.



CCRMC Cancer Program staff includes medical oncologists, nurse, surgeons, radiation therapists and more.

New Discount Card for Prescription Medications Now Available in Contra Costa

A new discount card was rolled out in April to help uninsured and underinsured Contra Costa residents afford their prescription medications. The Coast2Coast Rx card is free and covers roughly 60,000 medications with an average savings of 40% at most pharmacies throughout the county and the country. The card also helps those seniors in the Medicare part D donut hole, when a set dollar amount has been spent on medication and the individual must then pay full price for the remainder of the year. Health Services Contra Costa Health Plan CEO Patricia Tanquary gave a presentation on the new cards in April to the Board of Supervisors, which approved distribution of the cards. In the first week, there were more than 424 filled prescriptions in Contra Costa County at 57 pharmacies across the county which saved residents nearly \$10,000. As part of the program, Health Services will receive a small royalty on each prescription bought with the card, which could be about \$20,000 to \$40,000 annually and will go toward offsetting



the cost of providing medical care to the uninsured.

The cards can be downloaded online and printed in English and Spanish at: www.coast2coastrx.com/contracostaca, or picked up at many pharmacies, the County Supervisors' offices, most county libraries, government buildings, hospital emergency rooms or by calling 1-800-931-8872.

Heroic Efforts that Helped Save an 11-year-old Child's Life



Deputies Matt Foley and Tamara Ashton pictured with Julian Loera of Rollingwood. The Deputies performed CPR on the 11- year-old after his heart stopped, saving his life.

When Deputy Sheriffs Tamara Ashton and Matt Foley responded to a call of a “child not breathing,” little did they think they would help save a young boy’s life. On December 20, 2009, both of them were working a different beat but were assigned to Bay Station that day because of staffing issues. Both of them arrived at the Rollingwood home at about the same time. When they entered the home they saw Esther Loera performing CPR on her 11-year-old son Julian. They took over with Deputy Foley doing compressions and Deputy Ashton giving rescue breathing. They did that for about five minutes until paramedics arrived. Paramedics defibrillated Julian’s heart three times. He was taken to Doctor’s Hospital in San Pablo and then to Kaiser Hospital in Oakland where he was sedated.

On the third day, Julian woke up and told his mother, “Alexander is always playing with my DS Nintendo,” and that he wanted to eat “Nation’s.” At that moment, Esther knew her son would be fine. Still, doctors do not know what happened and could not find anything wrong with Julian but say it could have been “cardiac death.” Julian was given a pacemaker. He returned home about three weeks later and does not remember anything about that day. He is expected to make a full recovery.

On that day in December, Esther found Julian under his bed after being told by her stepson that Julian was sleeping. “When I pushed him, his body felt like dead weight,” said Esther Loera. “He was pale and I thought he was dead.” Esther then started CPR and continued until the Deputies arrived. Esther credited the Deputies with saving Julian’s life, “If not for them when they stepped in, who knows what would have happened. They did an amazing job.”

Esther stressed the importance of learning CPR, “Anything can happen in the blink of an eye. I never thought I would have to do CPR on my own son.”

Deputies Ashton and Foley were commended by Captain Donny Gordon and Lt. Ron Bradley of Bay Station who said, “Your efforts helped save an 11-year-old child’s life. Your efforts on this detail reflect very well upon each of you, Bay Station and the Contra Costa Sheriff’s Office. Thank you for a job well done.”

Only three days before this incident, both Deputies received update medical training. “It’s nice to see we can make a difference,” said Deputy Ashton. Deputy Foley said the update training was fresh in his mind. “It feels nice to help save a life,” said Deputy Foley.



Contra Costa Fire Protection District Rescues Woman from Canal

On Sunday, April 11, about 6:15 p.m. a 9-1-1 caller reported a vehicle was in a Walnut Creek flood channel upside down. There were several reports of both the potential for trapped victims as well as some who had floated downstream. Immediately, additional units were called to positions along the canal.

By 6:40 p.m., both of the victims were in the swift current approaching Bancroft Road near David Avenue. At the same time, California Highway Patrol Helicopter 30 (H 30) and Utility (van) 84 arrived with two rescue swimmers.

The helicopter crew set up their winch operation at approximately 6:43 p.m. just as the second victim went over the low-head dam. The fence was breached, several throwbags were tossed to the victim now caught in the boil line and H30 attempted to lower a rescue ring to the victim, all without success.

Then they took Fire Engineer Dave Manzeck onto the hoist and lowered him into the boil line where he made contact with the victim and pushed her downstream so that she could exit the boil. By this time the victim was unconscious. Training Captain 10 and an off-duty U.S. Coast Guard personnel who were downstream safeties threw a line to the victim but, being unconscious, was unable to grab the line.

The helicopter hoisted Engineer Manzeck, who was still attached to the rescue collar, out of the water and then re-lowered him just upstream of the unconscious victim. The victim was taken to shore and delivered to Advanced Life Support AMR (American Medical Response) personnel and relocated Engine 7 personnel. The victim, later identified as Janet Hogan, 74, was in cardiac arrest. She was transported to a waiting ambulance where she eventually regained pulses and spontaneous breathing. She was transported to John Muir Medical Center Walnut Creek campus where she later regained consciousness, was transferred to ICU (Intensive Care Unit) and she went home a few days later.

Although there were two tragic deaths, everyone's actions led to the saving of one life and the prevention of further injury to responding personnel and citizens.



Above: Interim Fire Chief John Ross makes a statement as Fire Captain Rob Smith and Manzeck look on.



Left: At a press conference April 12, Fire Engineer Dave Manzeck talks about the rescue of a woman swept from her car overturned in a Walnut Creek canal on April 11. The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District received local, regional and national news media coverage for this heroic rescue incident.



Daryl L. Louder Named Contra Costa Fire Chief

The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors recently appointed Daryl L. Louder to the position of Fire Chief for the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District effective June 1, 2010. Louder will lead the agency that provides fire and emergency medical services to nine cities and the unincorporated areas serving a population of 600,000 across a 304 square-mile area with 30 fire stations. With nearly 400 uniformed and civilian personnel, the District also provides full service to business and industry, including several petroleum refineries and chemical manufacturing plants. The District ranks among the fourteen largest metropolitan fire agencies in California, with a total operating budget for Fiscal Year 2009-10 of \$99.7 million.

Louder's career includes increasingly responsible positions with the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department in Virginia. His recent assignments there included Assistant Chief of Business

Services and Deputy Chief of Special Operations. As Assistant Chief of Business Services, he was responsible for the daily operations of Fire Prevention, Public Information and Life Safety Education, Support Services, Planning, and Fiscal Services.

Fire Chief Louder has a Bachelor of Science degree in Fire Science Management, University of Maryland, and holds a Master's degree in Interdisciplinary Management from the University of Maryland. He served as the program manager for the National Capital Region – Incident Management Team and has served as a technical specialist for a Federal Emergency Management Agency Urban Search and Rescue Incident Support Team. Chief Louder will reside in Contra Costa County.

For more information about the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District go to www.cccfpd.org.

SWIMMING POOL SAFETY TIPS

Contra Costa County Fire Protection District

To prevent injury and loss of life due to drowning and near-drowning incidents, the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District established a Pool Safety Council in September 2009.

To raise awareness about pool safety, the new council held an April Pools Day at two public swimming pools on April 3rd: Prewett Family Water Park in Antioch and Pleasant Hill Aquatic Park.

To learn more about pool safety, visit <http://www.abcpoolsafety.org/Home.384.0.html> and <http://drowningpreventionfoundation.us/index.html> or call Contra Costa County Fire Protection District EMS (Emergency Medical Services) at 925-941-3642.



Lifeguards demonstrate CPR at Pleasant Hill Aquatic Park on April Pools Day, April 3.



Girl practices lifesaving ring toss at Pleasant Hill Aquatic Park on April Pools Day, April 3, 2010.

ABC's of POOL SAFETY

A = ADULT SUPERVISION • B = BARRIERS • C = CLASSES

A = Adult Supervision

Assign an adult to supervise children in and around the swimming pool and spa. This is needed whether there is one parent or guardian present or numerous adults present such as during a family event or party.

Maintain constant eye-to-eye supervision with children in and around the swimming pool and spa.

Remove children from the swimming pool and spa area for any distraction such as a telephone call, use of restroom, etc.

Issue the adult supervisor an item such as a whistle, bracelet, etc. to reinforce which adult is in charge of the safety of the children.

Floaties or other inflatable flotation devices are not life jackets and should never be substituted for adult supervision.

Maintain a clear view (no trees, bushes or other obstacles) from the home to the swimming pool and spa.

Ensure any adult responsible for the children know the emergency services telephone number and also your location address in the event emergency personnel are needed to be called to the scene.

B = Barriers

Have a fence enclosure that isolates your swimming pool and spa from the home, play areas, front and side yards and the neighbor's yard.

Make sure all gates in the isolation fence are self-closing and self-latching.

Multiple layers of barriers isolating the pool and spa from children should be installed.

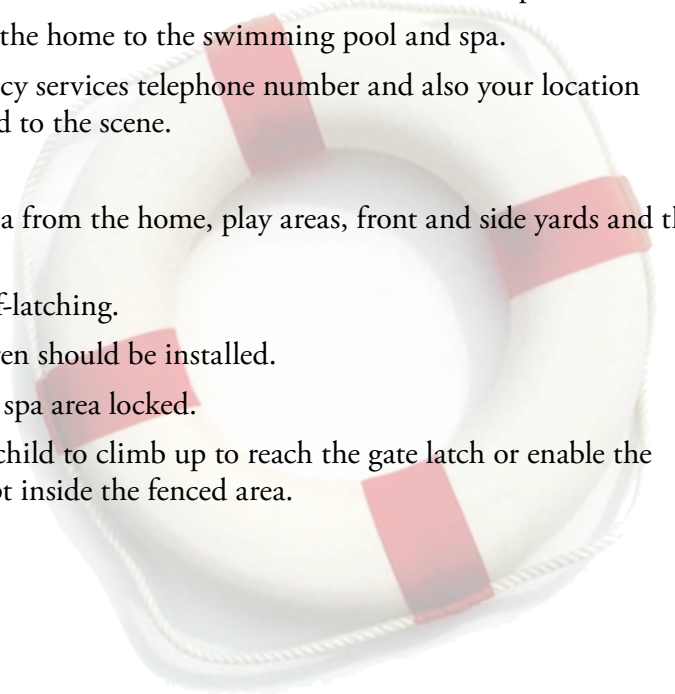
Keep all doors and windows leading to the swimming pool and spa area locked.

All chairs, tables, large toys or other objects that would allow a child to climb up to reach the gate latch or enable the child to climb over the isolation fence should be removed or kept inside the fenced area.

C = Classes

Learn how to perform Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR).

Enroll your child in swimming lessons.



Make a Splash at the Contra Costa County Library's Summer Reading Festival

On June 5th and 6th, the Contra Costa County Library's annual Reading Festival kicks off the popular Summer Reading program with a weekend of activities for audiences of all ages. The two-day celebration features events countywide, including: festivals in Lafayette and Antioch; a reading carnival in Dougherty Station; a visit from The Whale Bus in Hercules; an afternoon with internationally-acclaimed author, Dave Eggers (*A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius*, *Zeitoun*) at the Leshner Center for the Arts; and an opportunity to sign up for the 2010 Summer Reading program, Make A Splash @ Your Library.

Now in its third year, "this will be the first time the Library has scheduled the Reading Festival in conjunction with its long-running Summer Reading program," according to Anne Cain, county librarian. "The new Summer Reading Festival is a partnership that brings together two popular programs to carry the message about the importance and fun of reading, libraries, and literacy to all members of our community."



In Contra Costa County, Summer Reading has been celebrated for more than 40 years. Typically running for ten weeks beginning in June, it was originally designed to help school age children maintain and improve their reading skills during the long school break. Today, Summer Reading is open to all ages and nearly 39,000 babies, kids, teens and adults participated in the countywide program last year.

The Summer Reading Festival is the first big splash - all events are free and open to the public - and Summer Reading continues through August 16th with special events and prizes for finishers. For a complete Summer Reading Festival schedule and information on Summer Reading, visit your local library or www.ccclib.org.



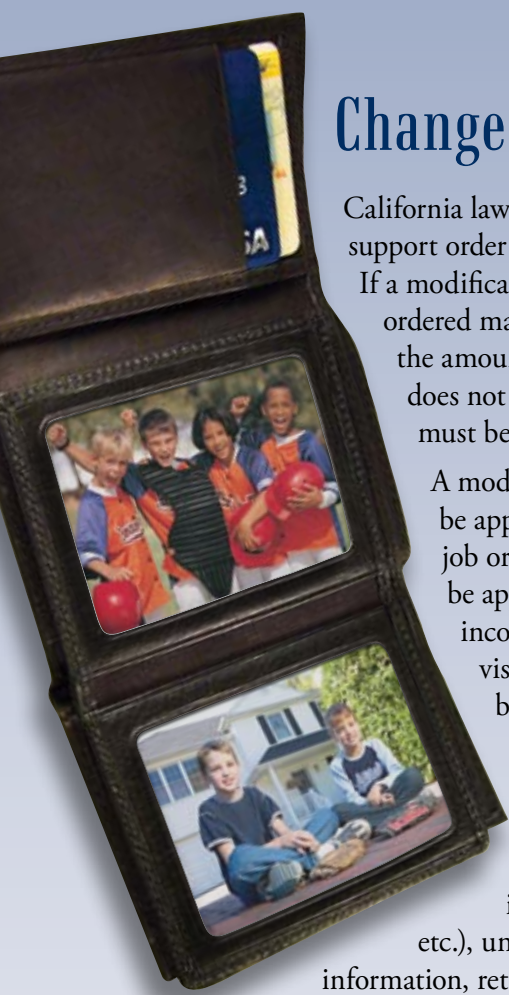
Green Business Program Adds 60 Businesses – Making Almost 400 in Contra Costa

Contra Costa businesses that make wine, raise worms, educate adults and do a host of other things were recognized last month for the one thing they now hold in common: the label of certified Green Business. The Green Business Program, located in Health Services' Hazardous Materials Division, added 60 businesses in the past year. Pollution Prevention Manager Robin Bedell-Waite said these businesses are the environmental leaders in our communities. Each business had to take measures to

prevent pollution, reduce waste, and save water and energy. Robin said that there are almost 400 certified Green Businesses in Contra Costa. The result of their combined efforts, she said, is healthier communities for residents to enjoy. A complete list of Green Businesses in Contra Costa and the Bay Area is available at www.greenbiz.ca.gov. To find out more about the Green Business Program, contact Robin Bedell-Waite at robin.bedell-waite@hdsd.cccounty.ca.gov or 925-335-3213.



Robin Bedell-Waite, center, celebrates with employees from newly certified Green Businesses outside the Board of Supervisors Chambers.



Changes in Child Support

California law allows for modification of a child support order when there is a change of circumstance.

If a modification is requested, the amount of support ordered may go up or down. Several factors affect the amount ordered, but a change in child support does not happen automatically. A new court order must be signed and filed with the court.

A modification to the child support order may be appropriate when a person is laid off from a job or experiences a loss of income. It may also be appropriate with a change in employment, if income increases or decreases, the custody or visitation agreement changes, the individual becomes disabled, or there is deployment to active military duty.

To request a modification, certain information such as income and expenses, child care expenses, medical insurance, disability (SSI, SDI, SSA, etc.), unemployment benefits, severance package information, retirement income, and custody and visitation arrangements will be needed.

*Do you know someone who has lost or may lose a job?
If Child Support is involved, there is Help!*

If the child support order is enforced by the Department of Child Support Services (DCSS), DCSS will determine whether a modification is appropriate and work with both parties to ensure that there is a fair order for the children. To initiate the process, either party may ask for a modification by contacting their local child support office at 1(866) 901-3212, or to easily and quickly complete a request for modification go to www.turbocourt.com.

www.TurboCourt.com

It's Quick, Easy, Secure & Free

If there is a court order for support but no case with a child support agency, the Family Law Facilitator can advise which paperwork to complete for a modification of child support.

Very important! A court order does not ensure compliance. Any individual may open a case with DCSS on an existing court order, or to establish a support order. There are no fees for any services which include accurate accounting and a variety of collection and distribution methods for payments. DCSS will issue wage assignments to employers and can intercept unemployment, social security, disability, or workers compensation benefits. It's quick, easy and secure to complete an online application in English or Spanish at www.turbocourt.com.



Be a friend. Tell a friend.

Visitors from Japanese Ministry of Education Visit West County Head Start Site

On March 9th, our Head Start Program was honored to host a three-member delegation from



the Japanese Ministry of Education at the Lake School Head Start site. The visitors are researching the transition from preschool to kindergarten and kindergarten to first grade in California.

Head Start staff gave an overview of the program and transition model, provided classroom tours of both the preschool and the kindergarten, and provided the opportunity for the visitors to interview teachers, the principal and administrative staff.

Everyone wanted a photo to remember the visit by.



Head Start Managers, State of California Education Officials and Delegation from Japan's Ministry of Education pose for a group photo commemorating the visit.



2009 Holiday Food Fight

Contra Costa County Employees Hit the Big Time!

As has been the tradition since 2003, the 2009-10 holiday season was celebrated in the County halls and offices with exhortations to employees to give, give, and give some more to the “Counties Care 2009 Holiday Food Fight.” From the kick-off breakfast on Halloween through the wrap-up love fest near Valentine’s Day, the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano was the focus of fundraising efforts that reached new creative heights. Pre-work breakfasts, burrito lunches, break-time drawings, and various challenges kept employees digging in their pockets in our annual attempt to keep the Big Apple trophy in the awards case at 651 Pine Street. All the while, Gene Burns with KGO (and other radio stations KKIQ, KKDV, and KUIC) were tracking the weekly reports from both Contra Costa and Solano employees and encouraging listeners to match our contributions.

All of this took place during a time when employees are feeling the pinch of ATA pay reductions, seeing their colleagues being laid off, and generally having to do more to cover reduced work staff in their departments. But that didn’t faze department team leaders; they went forward with courage and moxie and outshone all expectations—in both counties.

When the final tallies came in, we had amazing news for the Contra Costa side of the challenge: County employees had given a total of \$59,941.41 (including food collected and “converted” to dollars); contributions that came through employees from friends, relatives, and countrymen totaled \$20,288.49; and online donations, as a result of Gene Burns’ radio promotions, came in at \$23,800.84. This added up to an astonishing and extremely satisfying \$104,030.74. In a year when we didn’t expect to even match what was raised in the 2008 drive, we not only exceeded it, but we also broke the \$100,000 barrier for the first time!

Add to this the \$26,545.29 raised by Solano County employees, and the Food Bank came through the holidays with a whopping \$130,576.03 from the 2009 Food Fight, proving that our two counties are served by generous, caring employees who understand what the spirit of giving and service to others more needy is all about.

And by the way—despite all this, Contra Costa County had to cede the Big Apple to Solano County; their per-employee total (the standard for the competition) was \$9.33, and Contra Costa’s was \$9.11. But there’s always next year!!

AAA Completes its Move to Contra Costa Centre



AAA Northern California completed its corporate headquarters relocation to Contra Costa Centre last fall. The move brings approximately 1,000 jobs to Contra Costa County. The relocation was made possible by a partnership of the County and its Redevelopment Agency with AAA and Equity Office Properties/Harvest Properties. The 250,000 square foot facility is prominently located along I-680 just north of Treat Blvd. Paula Downey, the President of AAA Northern California, said that their new offices brings “exactly the kind of experience we want for our employees: a collaborative, creative environment in a leading-edge facility.” The real estate transaction that brought AAA to Contra Costa Centre was recently recognized by the San Francisco Business Times as a Deal of the Year for suburban office buildings.

Leading by example is a way of life for AAA. In the increasingly important realm of sustainable development, the AAA office building was built to LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standards. The building is the first office building in Contra Costa County to be given LEED Gold rating, the highest rating possible. The facility construction incorporated the use of recycled materials, the use of sustainably harvested woods, low-water use fixtures and low-emitting paints, carpets, and adhesives. Compared to other comparable facilities, the building will use 42% less water inside, and 54% less water outside.

We welcome AAA to Contra Costa Centre.

Keeping Contra Costa County Green

Since the inception of the General Services Department, we have stayed ahead of the curve in keeping Contra Costa County green through our efforts of the County Surplus and Recycle Division. This Division offers a vast array of services, which hopefully you have used and of which you will continue to take advantage.

You have probably seen the recycle crews as they stop at each county building and pick up paper and cardboard. Did you know they will also pick up used batteries and old ink cartridges? To recycle your batteries and old ink cartridges, just put them in a box, label what they are, and set them by your recycle bags. We will pick them up and dispose of them properly. Shredding services are also available. If you have confidential items that need to be shred, simply request salmon colored recycle bags by calling (925) 646-4322. Items placed in salmon colored recycle bags will be securely stored and shredded at the Recycle Center.

Do you need to clean out your drawers, but are afraid of losing an important historical document? Scanning is available through the Print & Mail Services Division, with scanned material then coming to recycle for disposal. If you need to clean out files, or bookshelves, or downsize in any way, let us know.



Loading recyclables into the truck to be hauled to the Recycle Center.



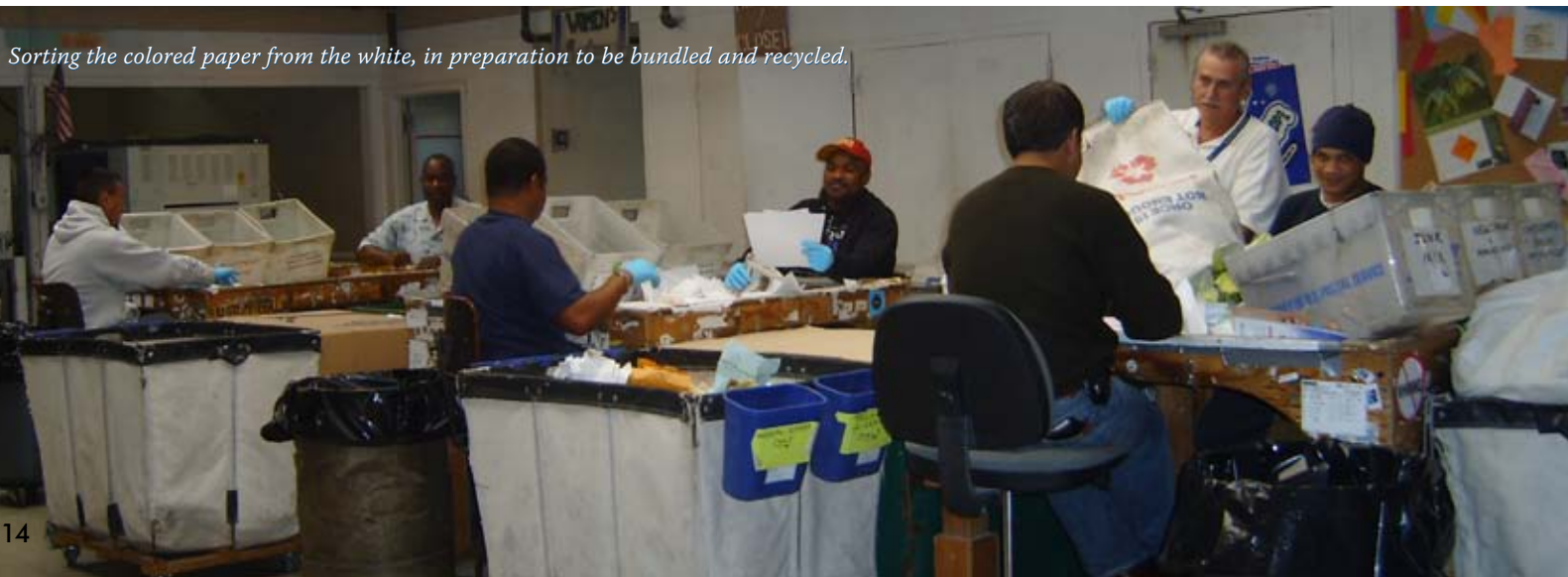
The Confidential Shredding Area - keeping your information secure.

FUN FACTS! Last year Recycle picked up and processed:

- ♻ 850 tons of paper and cardboard
- ♻ 2 tons of batteries
- ♻ Almost 2,000 ink cartridges were processed

All totaled, Recycle and Surplus have kept over 1,000 tons of material from getting to our landfills! In this time of financial crisis, it is more important than ever to realize that the County has a huge resource in used and recyclable products. A consultant's study done in 2008 determined that we are only picking up 11% of the available white paper, discarded by the County. We have a goal of doubling our efforts and picking up 1,600 tons of paper in the next year. We need all of the employees help to do this...It is as easy as changing which basket you discard your paper products into!

To contact Recycle to schedule pickups of paper, cardboard, delivery of larger carts or info on shredding, either call 925-646-4322, or fill out an on-line Facilities Maintenance work order, describing your needs. This form can be found on the General Services Department's intranet site at http://gsdnet.co.contra-costa.ca.us/gsd_wosite/login.asp.



Sorting the colored paper from the white, in preparation to be bundled and recycled.

National Public Works Week - May 16-22, 2010

National Public Works Week (NPWW) is observed each year during the third full week of May. NPWW is a celebration of the tens of thousands of men and women in North America who provide and maintain the infrastructure and services collectively known as public works.

Instituted as a public education campaign by the American Public Works Association (APWA) in 1960, NPWW calls attention to the importance of public works in community life. Public Works agencies across the nation seek to enhance the prestige of the often-unsung heroes of our society, the professionals who serve the public every day with quiet dedication. That quiet dedication includes emergency response at all hours of the day and night. Public Works averages 3 emergency call outs per week, not including calls during normal work hours. During wet winter months they respond to numerous calls on a daily basis. County Public Works

maintenance crews are well trained to perform a necessary duty to protect life and property in our

communities. They respond to everything from flooding and debris dumped in the roadway to large landslides and huge sinkholes in our roads. Whether it's a large rock slide or an oak tree falling across the road, most of the time by Monday morning no one is aware that there was an issue, which is the way it should be.

During NPWW, the Public Works Department will have public information displays set up in our lobby at 255 Glacier Drive, and in the lobby of the County Administration Building at 651 Pine Street. Also, as part of our effort to inform the community of the importance of public works, several staff members have volunteered to make presentations at some of the local elementary schools.



Public Works crew works on a slide repair.



Paving operation crew at work.



Washout repair underway with heavy equipment in use.

Congratulations

on a Job Well Done!



E-Rate program, generating hundreds of thousands of dollars in new funding.

The Parent Partner Program of Contra Costa County was selected to receive the Parent Leadership Program Award at the Parent Leadership Conference held on February 25 & 26, 2010. The Parent Partner Program of Contra Costa County was selected for its exceptional work in meaningfully engaging Parent Leaders in the planning, implementation and evaluation of the program. The program has done an outstanding job in supporting and empowering parents. This special recognition will be posted on the California Parent Engagement Center Web site at www.cparentengagement.org.

The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) has recognized the County's Contra Costa Centre Transit Village program for its Growing Smarter Together Award. The award category is for "On the Ground—Getting it Done". The Contra Costa Centre Transit Village is an excellent example of how the tool of redevelopment can be used in partnership with private investment to achieve multiple public policy objectives such as jobs-housing balance, transit/land use connections, affordable housing and value-capture by public agencies. By partnering with the private sector and with BART, Contra Costa County has delivered an example for the Bay Area to follow as it moves towards



a Smart Growth Program emphasizing transit-rich neighborhoods and districts. The development of the area, which has been on-going for 25 years, underscores the value of long term planning and implementation, political commitment and community based planning techniques.

New Chief Medical Officer at Regional Medical Center and Health Centers: Longtime Contra Costa Health Services physician and Regional Medical Center (CCRMC) Emergency Department Head, Dr. David Goldstein, became the new Chief Medical Officer of CCRMC and Health Centers in April. Dr. Goldstein replaces another valued and longtime Health Services employee, Dr. Steve Tremain. Dr. Goldstein, who assumed his new role April 19, trained in our Family Practice Residency Program from 1991–94 and has been a staff physician since graduating. He was elected to Chief of Emergency Medicine in 2002 and has become a leader in change management, serving as a National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems (NAPH) fellow in 2009–10. Dr. Tremain, who formally retired at the end of 2009 after 31 years with Health Services, will continue on staff in a part-time role as Chief Medical Information Officer, helping usher electronic medical records into CCRMC and Health Centers.

Julie Bueren, Public Works Director received the **Manager of the Year Award from the American Public Works Association (APWA)** Northern California Chapter. Julie was chosen as the recipient of this award for her efforts to raise awareness of local and regional transportation needs. She works tirelessly for the residents of our County and the State to deliver cost effective, safe, reliable and sustainable projects and programs.

Sung Kim, Business Systems and Services Manager, Contra Costa County Community Services Bureau, has been named the California Head Start Association Support Staff of the Year. Sung Kim began his career with Head Start in 2001, when he joined the Contra Costa County Community Services Department. He has been a leader locally and throughout California in creating business systems and cutting edge practices. Federal Reviewers have recognized him for developing a system for tracking many dispersed facilities and for developing an electronic inventory tracking system. He has enabled countywide efforts to access LIHEAP and DOE weatherization funding and services; and he enabled Contra Costa to be one of the first in the state to qualify for the federal

Some of the Important Events in the Month of May...

May 2nd through 8th was the 96th Be Kind to Animals Week in Contra Costa County.

May 8th was Letter Carrier Day in Contra Costa County.

The third full week in May is National Public Works Week.

Bike to Work Day is in May.

May is Motorcycle Awareness Month.

May is Mental Health Month.

May is American Wetlands Month.

May is Drowning Prevention Month.

May is High Blood Pressure Month.

May is Foster Parent Month.

May is Older Americans Month.

May is National Melanoma/Skin Cancer Detection and Prevention Month.

May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.